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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE FOR
MAINTENANCE DREDGING, TREATS ISLAND
ILLINOIS WATERWAY
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

JUNE 1993

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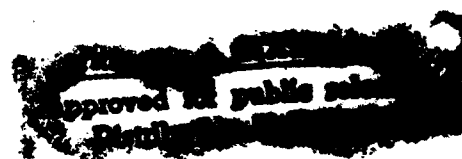
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**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Rock Island District



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AD NUMBER	DATE 11-29-93	DTIC ACCESSION NOTICE
1. REPORT IDENTIFYING INFORMATION A. ORIGINATING AGENCY U.S. Army Engineer District, Rock Island Corps of Engineers B. REPORT TITLE AND/OR NUMBER EA Material Placement Site for Maintenance Dredging, Treats Island, Illinois Waterway C. MONITOR REPORT NUMBER Will County Illinois		REQUESTER: 1. Put your mailing address on reverse of form. 2. Complete items 1 and 2. 3. Attach form to reports mailed to DTIC. 4. Use unclassified information only. 5. Do not order document for 6 to 8 weeks.
D. PREPARED UNDER CONTRACT NUMBER June 1993		
2. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A - Approved for Public Release Distribution is unlimited Randy Keacian (PD:E)		DTIC: 1. Assign AD Number. 2. Return to requester.

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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

June 23, 1993

Planning Division

SEE DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION LIST

The Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has enclosed for your review a copy of the Environmental Assessment and a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), addressing the proposed Material Placement Site for Maintenance Dredging, Treats Island, Illinois Waterway, Will County, Illinois, dated June 1993.

The document is being circulated for a 30-day review period, commencing from the date of this letter. If, at the end of the 30 days no comments are received that alter the determination that no significant environmental impact will result, the FONSI will be signed and kept on file at the Rock Island District office.

Please send any comments to the address listed below:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, Rock Island
ATTN: Planning Division
Clock Tower Building
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Sincerely,

Albert J. Kraus
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer

Enclosure



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CENCR-PD-E

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE FOR
MAINTENANCE DREDGING, TREATS ISLAND
ILLINOIS WATERWAY
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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JUNE 1993

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE FOR
MAINTENANCE DREDGING, TREATS ISLAND
ILLINOIS WATERWAY
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE FOR
MAINTENANCE DREDGING, TREATS ISLAND
ILLINOIS WATERWAY
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

This document has been developed to evaluate the impacts of placing dredged material on a site located on Treats Island in Will County, Illinois, along the left descending bank of the Des Plaines River in the Dresden Pool. The proposed site is located between River Miles (RM) 279.6 to 279.7L on the island and lies between two parallel rows of old dredged material which was placed there during the 1930's. The area of placement is estimated to have a capacity of 14,000 to 15,000 cubic yards. This historic site is being studied as "new" because of the length of time between usage.

Maintenance dredging is required to remove accreted sediments from the channel in order to provide a safe and unobstructed commercial navigation channel. Historically, dredging has been performed mechanically, with the dredged material placed at various locations along the bankline. The last dredging event for this area occurred in 1982, and heavy shoaling in the channel since that time has created a hazard for navigation.

A problem associated with all locations requiring frequent dredging is the availability and suitability of placement sites once the dredged material has been removed from the river. The dredged material ranges in size from fine silt to boulders, necessitating the use of mechanical dredging. Grain size analysis can be found on plate 3.

I. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE.

The formal authorization for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to perform operation and maintenance activities on the Illinois Waterway was given in the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1927, as modified by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1930, and as further modified by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1935.

Maintenance dredging responsibility on the Illinois Waterway within the Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, encompasses RM 80.0 to 327.0. Authority for such dredging and a discussion of its impacts have been addressed in earlier reports and in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for Operation and Maintenance of a Nine-Foot Channel in the Illinois Waterway*, dated February 1975.

Following the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, this Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to address impacts associated with utilization of a new dredged material placement site on the Illinois Waterway.

The decision to be made at this time is to determine a suitable placement site for the dredged material.

II. PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION.

Treats Island is owned by the Illinois Department of Conservation and is located in Will County along the left descending bank of the Des Plaines River. The proposed site on the island is located between RM 279.6 to 279.7L and is approximately 650 feet long by 70 feet wide at the peaks. Approximately 550 feet of that length will be used. It lies between two parallel rows of old dredged material which were placed during construction of the navigation channel in the 1930's. The parallel rows and the area between are composed primarily of rocky, dredged material. The estimated capacity for the available portion of this site is 14,000 to 15,000 cubic yards. The initial dredging event would place approximately 6,000 cubic yards of material on the site. Each additional event would add 2,000 to 3,000 cubic yards of dredged material until the site has reached capacity.

The proposed project would off-load dredged material on the island, by crane, at RM 279.7. This is near the upstream end of the area formed by the two parallel rows of previously dredged material and under the Commonwealth Edison Power lines. In earlier coordination, Commonwealth Edison stated that placement of dredged material under their power lines would be allowed, provided that the Corps maintains a minimum of 10 feet distance from the power line poles and a minimum of 20 feet of clearance under the power lines for said placement. From the off-loading zone, the material would be pushed by bulldozer into the area between the old dredged material placement.

The Illinois On-Site Inspection Team (OSIT) provides input and guidance to the Corps in the selection of dredged material placement sites. The members of the OSIT represent the Illinois Department of Conservation, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois Natural History Survey, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Illinois OSIT visited Treats Island in May 1991 and recommended that this site be used for dredged material placement.

Plate EA-2 shows the location of the proposed placement site and the dredge cut from which most of the dredged material would be removed.

The environmental issues to be addressed are the riparian zone impacts (where the crane would off-load the dredged material) and the impacts to

the area between the old dredged material peaks. These will be discussed below in Section V - Affected Environment and Section VI - Environmental Impacts of the Preferred Alternative.

III. ALTERNATIVES.

A. No Action. The No Action alternative would preclude Federal involvement in the project. Consequently, no dredging would occur. If this area is not dredged, it is certain that shoaling would occur and result in unsafe navigation conditions to commercial navigation. Such a situation would result in an unacceptable hazard to life or navigation, a significant loss of property, or an immediate and unforeseen significant economic hardship if corrective action is not taken. The No Action option is not a feasible alternative.

B. Beach/Bankline Placement. Beach/Bankline Placement removes sediments from the navigation channel and has been utilized in the past. However, the space available for placement is at a premium, and this alternative also leaves dredged material vulnerable to erosion or entry back into the river.

C. Floodplain Placement. This alternative proposes placing material on numerous sites (other than the Treats Island placement site) on lowlands adjacent to the dredge cut. These sites are currently bottomland hardwoods and/or open marsh. The placement of dredged material in this wetland habitat would violate Executive Order 11990: Protection of Wetlands. Federal agencies are required by law to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and to avoid direct or indirect support of construction in wetlands wherever a practicable alternative exists. Such a practicable alternative exists for this project.

D. Placement on Treats Island. This is the preferred alternative for this project. The placement site is confined on two sides by material previously placed in the 1930's during construction of the navigation channel and would yield an estimated holding capacity of 14,000 to 15,000 cubic yards of dredged material. This estimated volume should be sufficient to accommodate the requirements for this dredge cut.

Utilization of this alternative would not result in any off-site erosion or migration of dredged material, nor would flood heights in the vicinity be impacted.

IV. INFEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED EVALUATION.

No other suitable sites could be found within Dresden Pool because of current land use or lack of river access. New sites obtained at Brandon Road Lock and Dresden Island Lock were not considered. These sites have limited capacity and are intended for use by local dredge cuts. Another factor considered is that the cost of transportation over long distances is much greater than utilization of suitable local sites.

The side channel area behind Treats Island was eliminated as a site because it is a functional wetland system.

Bankline placement within a reasonable distance of the dredge cut was eliminated. Any site that might provide an adequate placement site has already been used or is too limited for material requiring placement.

V. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT.

The environment affected by the scope of this project (approximately 1 acre) is limited to non-wetland forest habitat of the site itself and to the riparian off-loading location under the power lines. The off-loading area is less than 0.1 acre and has a rocky/sandy layer with enough topsoil to support scattered plant growth. It is out of the floodway but would be inundated with a 100-year flood (Appendix B). A crane would off-load the material to the riparian area. The first material off-loaded would be used to build a platform or staging area onto which additional material would be placed and then pushed by bulldozer into the area between the old dredged material placement piles.

These sites would need some vegetative clearing of ground cover and small trees prior to placement of the dredged material. The cleared trees (mostly pole size and immature) and shrubs would be pushed into piles at the edge of the off-loading site and toward the downstream end of the site (where feasible and practicable) and not burned. This would provide concealment and protection for area wildlife from predators and from the elements. No off-site habitats would be affected.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

Potential impacts associated with the preferred alternative would be limited to the forested area parallel to the Illinois Waterway system between the two rows of old dredged material and the riparian off-loading location under the power lines.

Effects of the preferred alternative on natural resources and historic properties are summarized in table EA-1.

TABLE EA-1

Effects of the Preferred Action
on Natural and Cultural Resources

<u>Types of Resources</u>	<u>Authorities</u>	<u>Measurement of Effects</u>
Air quality	Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 165h-7, et seq.)	No significant effect
Areas of particular concern within the coastal zone	Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended	Not present in plan- ning area
Endangered and threatened species critical habitat	Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.)	No significant impacts anticipated
Fish and wildlife	Fish and Wildlife Coordi- nation Act (16 U.S.C. 661, et seq.)	No significant effect
Floodplains	Executive Order 11988, Flood Plain Management	No significant effect
Historic and cultural properties	National Historic Preserva- tion Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470, et seq.)	No significant effect
Prime and unique farmland	CEQ Memorandum of August 1, 1980; Analysis of Impacts on Prime or Unique Agricul- tural Lands in Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act	No significant effect
Water quality	Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq.)	No significant effect
Wetlands	Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 24 May 1977	Present in planning area. Loss of <0.1 acre of regulated wet- land (App. B, p. 4).
Wild and scenic rivers	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1271, et seq.)	Not present in plan- ning area

A. Historic Properties. The Corps is required to search for, identify, and determine effects upon historic properties eligible for, or listed on, the National Register of Historic Places and to seek comments from the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). These requirements are promulgated under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties. The Corps determined that a cultural resource survey was not necessary for this placement site because historic dredge placement, consisting primarily of large boulders, covered the entire land surface. The Corps coordinated this determination with the Illinois SHPO by letter on January 4, 1993, and received their concurrence on January 25, 1993.

B. Manmade Resources. The proposed project, located in the Dresden Island Pool, may be considered a manmade resource since it is a natural resource modified by man to facilitate waterborne commerce on the Illinois Waterway. The 9-foot river channel is essential to commercial navigation on the Illinois Waterway. The series of pools and channel were created and are controlled by operation of the locks and dams in conjunction with other components of the Illinois Waterway 9-foot Channel Navigation project. Completion of this project would counteract past effects of sediment accumulation in the channel and aid commercial navigation.

C. Natural Resources. The proposed project would take place exclusively in the terrestrial environment. Potential sources of impacts from this project include flora which grows there and fauna that utilize this area for feeding, loafing, nesting, etc.

This site has 8 to 10 mature trees reaching 70 to 80 feet in height. The largest is an old cottonwood, having a diameter of over 4 feet, and is located approximately 550 feet downstream from the power lines. The dredged material would be kept upstream from this tree. There is a sub-canopy layer of regeneration and pole-sized trees with a 10- to 20-foot height. Some of the tree species present are elm, box elder, silver maple, hackberry, and cottonwood. A rather large dead tree should be left in place if possible as it provides good habitat for nesting squirrels and birds. There is enough sunlight penetration to permit some shrub and ground cover growth. The shrub/herbaceous layer consists of many common and hardy species such as asters, Virginia creeper, grasses, gooseberry, poison ivy, and smartweeds, but is thinned by the rocky nature of the ground.

Many species of woodland songbirds and small mammals inhabit the site. Signs of wildlife, such as tracks and droppings of deer, squirrel, and raccoon, are common on the island.

The preferred placement site contains no rookeries, critical wildlife habitats, sand beaches, water-oriented recreational facilities, public parks or recreation areas, or water sport areas.

The project would not impact spawning areas, ichthyoplankton, fish migration routes, sport fishing areas, mussel beds, aquatic plant communities, side channels, backwaters, or sloughs.

Some riparian vegetation would be cleared to allow for placement of the dredged material by crane. Woody and herbaceous understory vegetation would be cleared but should quickly reappear after each dredging event.

D. Endangered Species. The federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) may forage for insects along the Illinois Waterway corridor. The Indiana bat prefers habitat containing dead trees with loose bark to establish nursing sites. Caves are utilized in winter for hibernation. Large, dead trees would not be removed from the placement site unless absolutely necessary.

The federally endangered bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) normally migrates south to overwinter along major rivers, such as the Illinois. The eagles usually begin to arrive in the area in late November or early December. They forage for fish where they can find open water, such as the tailwaters below the lock and dam complexes. The eagles rest and loaf in the larger trees and snags along the shoreline. The trees provide excellent vantage points for fishing. In the evening, the eagles seek shelter in roost trees that provide protection from winter weather. The removal of large trees that provide potential eagle habitat would be avoided.

Three federally endangered or threatened plant species are listed as occurring or potentially occurring in Will County, Illinois. They are the leafy prairie clover (*Dalea foliosa*), the eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*), and the lakeside daisy (*Hymenoxis herbacea*). The prairie habitats necessary for the occurrence of these species are not found at the placement site.

Early coordination with State and Federal resource agencies has not revealed any objections or concerns over potential impacts to Indiana bats, bald eagles, or endangered or threatened plant species.

The proposed project would not impact any State or Federal rare, threatened, or endangered species or their critical habitat.

E. Air and Noise Quality. Limited air pollution effects would be produced from machinery exhaust. The immediate area surrounding the placement site is comprised of industrial, agricultural, or undeveloped environs, so impacts should be minimal. Similar temporary noise and machinery exhaust would be produced by tractors during moving and shaping of dredged material.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF NONPREFERRED ALTERNATIVES.

If the No Action Alternative were implemented, the natural resources of the area may improve as the waterway tries to revert to a more natural state. As the channel closes from shoaling, commercial navigation would cease. Currently, this is a grossly improbable scenario that leads to the conclusion that the No Action Alternative is not practicable.

If the Beach/Bankline Placement Alternative is implemented, the dredged material quantities would continue to rise as the previously dredged material slowly erodes back into the river. Continued utilization of this alternative would result in adverse impacts to the terrestrial and aquatic natural resources of the project area.

Implementation of the Floodplain Alternative would result in the destruction of permanent to semi-permanent wetland areas. They would be filled with dredged material, eliminating important waterfowl and furbearer habitat. Utilization of this alternative would require mitigation to recover lost wetland and shallow water habitat. Given the fact that a practicable alternative has been identified, utilization of the Floodplain Alternative would violate Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands.

VIII. PROBABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED.

Understory vegetation would be temporarily lost, but would revegetate after each dredging event with herbaceous vegetation first and more slowly with woody material.

Due to the recreational boating and waterfowl hunting use in the vicinity, local wildlife has become accustomed to some level of disturbance. Temporary avoidance of the project area would cause only short-term and marginal impacts to area wildlife. Through post-project site revegetation, net benefits to area wildlife are anticipated.

IX. COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STATUTES.

Tabular summation of compliance can be found in table EA-2.

A. Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The project would not impact any endangered species.

B. National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Project plans have been coordinated with the Illinois SHPO, and they have determined that the project would not impact any significant historic architectural or archaeological resources.

TABLE EA-2

Relationship of Plans to Environmental Protection
Statutes and Other Environmental Requirements

<u>Federal Policies</u>	<u>Compliance</u>
Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 469, et seq.	Full compliance
Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1857h-7, et seq.	Full compliance
Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1451, et seq.	Not applicable
Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.	Full compliance
Estuary Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 1221, et seq.	Not applicable
Federal Water Project Recreation Act, 16 U.S.C. 460-1(12), et seq.	Full compliance
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 601, et seq.	Full compliance
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, 16 U.S.C. 460/-460/-11, et seq.	Not applicable
Marine Protection Research and Sanctuary Act, 33 U.S.C. 1401, et seq.	Not applicable
National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.	Full compliance
National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470a, et seq.	Full compliance
Rivers and Harbors Act, 33 U.S.C. 403, et seq.	Full compliance
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, 16 U.S.C. 1001, et seq.	Not applicable
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C. 1271, et seq.	Full compliance
Flood Plain Management (Executive Order 11988)	Full compliance
Protection of Wetlands (Executive Order 11990)	Full compliance
Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions (Executive Order 12114)	Not applicable
Farmland Protection Act	Full compliance
Analysis of Impacts on Prime and Unique Farmland (CEQ Memorandum, 11 Aug 80)	Full compliance

NOTES:

a. Full compliance. Having met all requirements of the statute for the current stage of planning (either preauthorization or postauthorization).

b. Partial compliance. Not having met some of the requirements that normally are met in the current stage of planning.

c. Noncompliance. Violation of a requirement of the statute.

d. Not applicable. No requirements for the statute required; compliance for the current stage of planning.

C. Federal Water Project Recreation Act. No opportunities for recreational development or aspects of the proposed project conducive to recreational development have been identified.

D. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Project plans have been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Illinois Department of Conservation. Coordination responses can be found in appendix A.

E. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended. No portion of the Illinois Waterway is listed as either wild or scenic.

F. Executive Order 11988 (Flood Plain Management). Executive Order 11988 directs Federal agencies to: (1) avoid development in the floodplain unless it is the only practical alternative; (2) reduce the hazards and risks associated with floods; (3) minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare; and (4) restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain. The proposed action is in accordance with Executive Order 11988.

G. Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands). Executive Order 11990 directs Federal agencies to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands when a practical alternative exists. Wetland definitions may apply to bottomland and shoreline areas within the project area. The proposed action is in accordance with Executive Order 11990.

H. Clean Water Act (Sections 401 and 404), as amended. A 404(b)(1) Evaluation has been prepared. The State of Illinois has granted 401 Water Quality Certification for this project.

I. Clean Air Act, as amended. No aspect of the proposed project has been identified that would result in violations to air quality standards.

J. Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981. The proposed project would not result in the conversion of any prime, unique, or State or locally important farmland to nonagricultural uses.

K. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The compilation of the EA fulfills NEPA compliance.

L. National Economic Development (NED) Plan. The NED Plan is the plan which best satisfies the Federal planning objectives of increasing the Nation's output of goods and services and produces the most improvement to the national economic efficiency. The proposed plan is considered the best to fulfill the NED objective.

X. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USE AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY.

The Illinois Waterway is a vital component of the national transportation infrastructure. With timely and appropriate maintenance, it will continue to serve recreational, commercial, and environmental interests for the long term.

Without this use of the terrestrial environment to remove sediments from the river, the navigation channel will deteriorate from shoaling, eventually closing the channel to commercial navigation.

XI. IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES IF PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED.

Fuel consumed, manpower expended, and the commitment of construction materials are considered to be irretrievable.

XII. SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.

A. Community and Regional Growth. No significant immediate effects to community or regional growth would result from the project.

B. Community Cohesion. Placement of dredged material at the site would not affect community cohesion as the site is located on an island in the Illinois Waterway. The prevalent land use in the area is industrial.

C. Displacement of People. The project would necessitate no residential displacements.

D. Property Values and Tax Revenues. There would be no impacts on property values or tax revenues in the project area as a result of the proposed project. The site has previously been used for dredged material placement.

E. Public Facilities and Services. The project would have positive impacts on public facilities and services. Maintenance of the 9-foot channel is essential for commercial navigation on the Illinois Waterway.

F. Life, Health, and Safety. The project would have no adverse effects on life or health. The project would help maintain the 9-foot channel for commercial navigation and reduce the potential for groundings.

G. Business and Industrial Growth. There would be no increase in business and industrial activity during project construction. Utilization of this placement site would necessitate no business or industrial relocations.

H. Employment and Labor Force. There would be no permanent effect on area employment in the project vicinity.

I. Farm Displacement. No farms or farmland would be affected by the proposed placement of dredged material.

J. Noise Levels. The temporary increase in noise levels during dredged material placement would not have a noteworthy or lasting impact.

K. Aesthetics. The aesthetic appeal of any type of dredging activity is low; however, the crest of the river side of the area would screen much of the dredged material placement site from river users. Over time, the placement site would be vegetated. There would be no permanent adverse impacts.

XIII. RELATIONSHIP TO LAND-USE PLANS.

The project, as proposed, would not conflict with any land use plans. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not have a Land Use Allocation Plan for the Illinois Waterway due to the lack of Corps ownership on the system.

XIV. CONCLUSION.

Analysis of several alternatives for this project concludes that the utilization of the preferred alternative, located at RM 279.6 to 279.7L between two parallel rows of old dredged material, best achieves the project's goals and objectives.

XV. COORDINATION.

All coordination letters from the Rock Island District for this project with State and Federal governmental agencies can be found in appendix A followed by any responses received. Coordination was initiated early and continued throughout the planning process. The following agencies have been contacted:

Illinois Department of Transportation
Illinois Historical Preservation Agency
Illinois Department of Conservation
Illinois Natural History Survey
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Illinois Department of Conservation has no objections to the use of this property.

The Illinois Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer has determined that no significant historic, architectural, or archaeological resources are located within the project area.

The USFWS has determined that there are no rare or endangered species nor any critical habitat designated in the project area. If such is discovered at a later date, the USFWS will be contacted.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE FOR
MAINTENANCE DREDGING, TREATS ISLAND
ILLINOIS WATERWAY
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS


I have reviewed the information in this Environmental Assessment, along with data obtained from Federal and State agencies having jurisdiction by law or special expertise, and from the interested public. I find that the placement of dredged material in the manner prescribed in this Environmental Assessment on Treats Island, Illinois Waterway, will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, it is my determination that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination will be reevaluated if warranted by later developments.

Factors that were considered in making this determination that an Environmental Impact Statement was not required were as follows:

- a. The Illinois On-Site Inspection Team uniformly recommended that placement on Treats Island will be preferred over other alternatives.
- b. Placement on Treats Island will permanently remove the dredged material from the floodway, thereby reducing future dredging problems in the area.
- c. Placement on Treats Island will avoid adverse impacts to aquatic flora and fauna associated with bankline placement.
- d. The proposed preferred alternative provides the best practicable solution to the dredged material placement problem at this dredge cut.
- e. Early and ongoing coordination with State and Federal agencies has been maintained during the planning process to address any potential concerns that may arise from this project.

1 Oct 93

Date


Albert J. Kraus
Colonel U.S. Army
District Engineer

27 September 1993
KRACIUN/5174

MEMORANDUM THRU

PD *AS*OD *9-29-93*PD *9-29-93*FOR DE *12*

SUBJECT: Statement of Findings (SOF) for Operation and Maintenance Dredging near Treats Island on the Illinois Waterway in Will County, Illinois.

1. The report, Environmental Assessment, Material Placement Site for Maintenance Dredging, Treats Island, Illinois Waterway, Will County, Illinois, June 1993, with unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation with unsigned Findings of Compliance (FOC) have been distributed for a 30-day public review and comment period ending on or about 23 July 1993. The Public Notice for the Section 404 permit was distributed for a 30-day review period ending 23 September 1993.
2. Comments received are summarized in the enclosed SOF. District responses follow each summary.
3. All required certification pursuant to the Clean Water Act from the State of Illinois has been received.
4. Recommend the DE sign the enclosed FONSI, SOF, and FOC. After signing, please return to PD-E for inclusion into the report.

3 Encls



MICHAEL A. COCKERILL
Chief, Environmental Analysis
Branch

CF (all wo/encls):
Dist File (PD)
PD-E
PD-E (DEISS)
OD
OD-MR
OD-MC (Cox)
OD-R (Porteck)
OD-SP

**MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE FOR
MAINTENANCE DREDGING, TREATS ISLAND
ILLINOIS WATERWAY
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

I. Project Description.

A. This statement concerns a proposal by the Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CENCR) to place dredged material for maintenance dredging on Treats Island in Will County, Illinois. Treats Island is located at approximate River Mile (RM) 279.4-280.1 on the Illinois Waterway.

B. An Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the impacts of the proposed project has been prepared and circulated for public review. Accompanying the EA is a Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation.

II. Public Interest Review.

The public notice for this project was issued on August 25, 1993, and expired on September 23, 1993. It was sent to post offices; appropriate city, county, State, and Federal agencies; and other interested parties. A mailing list for the public notice is included in the permit file.

III. Public Review Comments.

The following is a list of the comments received during the public review period. Each is followed by CENCR's response.

A. The Illinois Department of Agriculture heartily supports the selection and use of Treats Island for the placement of dredged material.

RESPONSE: None required.

B. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region V, reiterates Executive Order 11988, Flood Plain Management and also states, "The responsibility for determining flood plain impacts rests with the project sponsor and the affected Federal and State agencies who are supporting and/or permitting the project."

RESPONSE: None required.

C. The Illinois Department of Conservation (IL DOC) stated that its earlier letter, located in the Pertinent Correspondence section of the EA, which included the Permit for Dredged Material Placement, was not complete.

The IL DOC recommends that the missing page be included in any future mailings concerning this project.

RESPONSE: The missing page was inadvertently omitted in the printing of the document. While it is regrettable, the page is not critical to the EA. The letter has been included in its entirety in this document.

D. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region V, does not object to the project, as proposed. They have included some comments for consideration:

1. While the EPA concurs with the plan of placing the cleared trees and shrubs into piles at the edge of the site to provide habitat, they would like to see the removed trees replaced.

2. Revegetation of the site should be accomplished after placement of dredged material.

3. The EPA recommends the use of measures which will prevent spillage or runoff of the dredged material into the river.

4. Use of turbidity control measures during dredging are advised.

5. Measures to reduce increased noise levels and exhaust emissions during dredging activities should be taken, and the contract should mandate the use of best management practices.

RESPONSES:

1. & 2. CENCR has coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), to establish a practicable remediation program for the site. The placement of a cap material and planting of mast producing trees will take place after the final dredging event. The cap material will come from a site to be determined at that time. A revegetation mixture of four species has been chosen for this site. They are Bur oak (Quercus macrocarpa), Hill's or Northern Pin oak (Quercus ellipsoidalis), Chinquapin or Yellow Chestnut oak (Quercus muehlenbergii) and Red cedar (Juniperus virginiana). The trees will be in 2 gallon containers, at a minimum, when they are transported to Treats Island. The trees will be planted with a spacing of 20 feet and mulched in a 3 foot radius. The area to be planted is approximately 70 x 550 feet and will accommodate approximately 100 trees. CENCR will monitor the results and if the failure rate is greater than 50% then we will investigate and determine the cause. CENCR will then institute the best possible remediation allowable. CENCR feels that this plan will allow for the best results given

the dredged material being placed on the island by this project.

3. Because of the nature of the placement, there will be no, or very minor, spillage or runoff of dredged material into the river. The EPA's suggested measures would not be necessary.

4. The dredging technique that is to be used at the Treats Island dredge cut minimizes the amount of turbidity for dredging events.

5. These items are already required by CENCR.

E. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) concurs with our findings that the project, as proposed, will have no effect on federally listed endangered species. Other comments follow:

1. The EA does not indicate the life of the disposal site.

2. The EA does not adequately address revegetation. The FWS suggests that CENCR coordinate with the IL DOC to develop a revegetation plan for the site.

3. The FWS states that the trees and shrubs pushed into piles (windrows) at the edge of the site would attract predators such as raccoons and skunks. The FWS prefers CENCR to fell the trees in place and cover them with dredged material.

RESPONSES:

1. The EA states the capacity of the site and the cubic yards per dredging event, which might allow for a total of four events. The average time between dredging events is 2-3 years. That would give a total of 12 years for the anticipated length of the site.

2. See response D (1 & 2).

3. CENCR will windrow the trees and shrubs located in the staging area at the edge of the site. The trees and shrubs between the old disposal piles will be felled as space is needed and then buried with dredged material.

IV. Summary of Environmental Impact Review.

A. An EA has been prepared for this project. This review has not identified any potentially significant adverse effects resulting from the implementation of the project as proposed. Thus, a Finding of No Significant

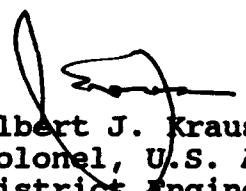
Impact was prepared and is included as an appendix in the EA.

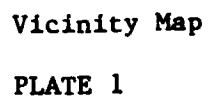
B. The Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation prepared for this project concluded that, as proposed, this activity will comply with the guidelines set forth in 40 CFR 230 with appropriate conditions as discussed in the evaluation document and this Statement of Findings.

V. Summary of Findings.

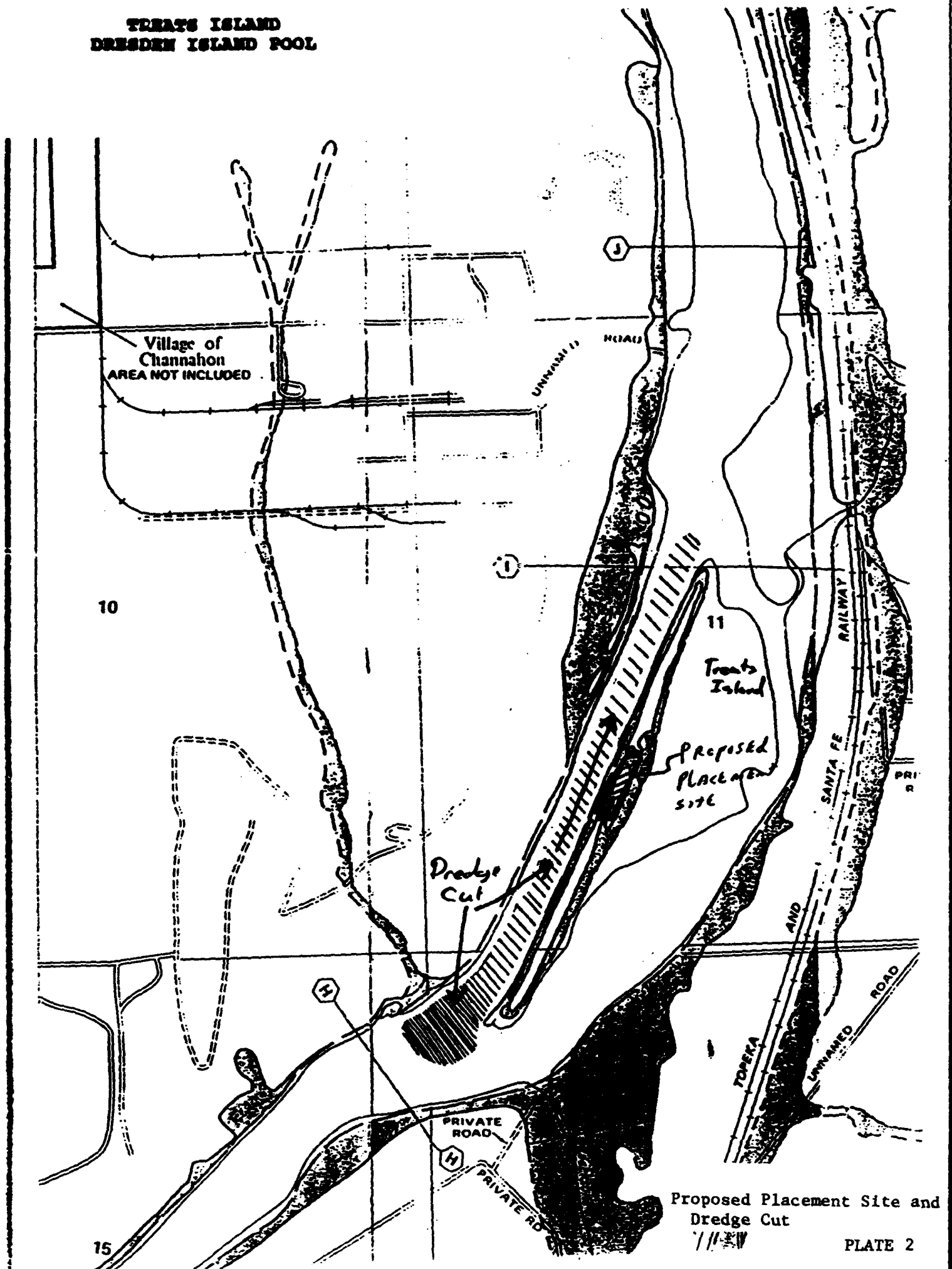
I find that the implementation of the project, as proposed, and under the conditions set forth and as prescribed by regulations published in 33 CFR Part 230 (Appendix B), 33 CFR Parts 320 to 340, 40 CFR Part 230 (if applicable), and 33 CFR Part 250 (Implementation of Executive Order 11988, Flood Plain Management) is in the public interest.

1 Oct 73
Date


Albert J. Kraus
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer



**TREATS ISLAND
DRESDEN ISLAND POOL**



Proposed Placement Site and
Dredge Cut

**ILLINOIS WATERWAY
TREATS ISLAND
SAMPLE DATE: 23 JUNE 1989
River Miles 279.1-279.4R**

#230 WASH SUMMARY OF TESTING

SAMPLE NO.	PERCENT PASSING #230 SIEVE	CLASSIFICATION SYMBOL AND DESCRIPTION
IL-279.1 R	0.7%	GP GRAY SANDY GRAVEL WITH WOODY MATERIAL
IL-279.1 R (DUP)	1.2%	GP GRAY SANDY GRAVEL WITH WOODY MATERIAL
IL-279.1 L	1.8%	GP GRAY SANDY GRAVEL
IL-279.2 R	1.2%	SP GRAY GRAVELLY COARSE TO FINE SAND WITH COAL, CINDERS, AND WOOD
IL-279.4 R	0.3%	SP GRAY GRAVELLY COARSE TO FINE SAND WITH COAL, CINDERS, AND WOOD

NOTES:

1. VISUAL CLASSIFICATION OF SOILS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH "THE UNIFIED SOILS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (USCS)."

2. LABORATORY TESTING WAS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH EM 1110-2-1906 DATED 20 NOV 70 REVISED 01 MAY 80, 20 AUG 86. ALL SAMPLES WERE OVEN DRIED AT 110 DEGREES CENTIGRADE. SAMPLE DESIGNATED (DUP) IS A DUPLICATE SAMPLE.

PERTINENT CORRESPONDENCE

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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

JANUARY 4, 1993

Planning Division

SEE DISTRIBUTION LIST

This letter is to notify you that the Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently proposing to place dredged material on Treats Island, Dresden Island Pool, Illinois Waterway. The Rock Island District anticipates distribution of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and public notice regarding this action later this fiscal year.

Treats Island is owned by the Illinois Department of Conservation and is located in Will County along the left descending bank of the Des Plaines River. The proposed site is located at river mile 279.6 to 279.7L and is approximately 550 feet long. It lies between two parallel rows of dredged material which was placed there during construction of the manmade channel in the 1930s. The parallel rows and the area between is composed primarily of rocky dredged material. The estimated capacity for this site is 12,000 to 13,000 cubic yards.

The Illinois On-Site Inspection Team (OSIT) visited the island in May of 1991 and made recommendations that the site be used for dredged material placement.

Please provide your comments, concerns, and recommendations regarding significant natural and cultural resources to us no later than February 10, 1993. A map showing the location of the proposed placement site and the dredge cut from which most of the dredged material will be removed is attached for your reference.

In addition to the proposed site, we are willing to consider any other operationally feasible, cost effective, and environmentally acceptable placement site that is located within the project vicinity. If you know of any potential placement site, please send a description of its location, along with any comments you may have.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Mr. Randy Kraciun of our Environmental Analysis Branch, telephone 309/788-6361, Ext. 6174, or you may write to the following address:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, Rock Island
ATTN: Planning Division
Clock Tower Building
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
PATRICK T. BURKE, P.E.**

Dudley M. Hanson, P.E.
Chief, Planning Division

Attachment

Copies Furnished:

Mr. Michael Mac Mullen
Assistant Chief Environmental Analysis
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region 5
230 South Dearborn
Chicago, Illinois 60604 (w/attachment)

Mr. Robert Schanzle
Permit Program Manager, Impact Analysis Division
Illinois Department of Conservation
524 South Second
Springfield, Illinois 62706 (w/attachment)

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Mr. Rick Nelson
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4469 - 48th Avenue Court
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Mr. Valdas Adankus
Regional Administrator
Environmental Review Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region 5
230 South Dearborn
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Mr. Brent Manning
Director
Illinois Department of Conservation
524 South Second
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Mr. Vern Kleen
Natural Heritage Department
Illinois Department of Conservation
600 North Grand Avenue West
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Mr. Bruce Yurdin
Illinois Environmental
Protection Agency
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, Illinois 62706

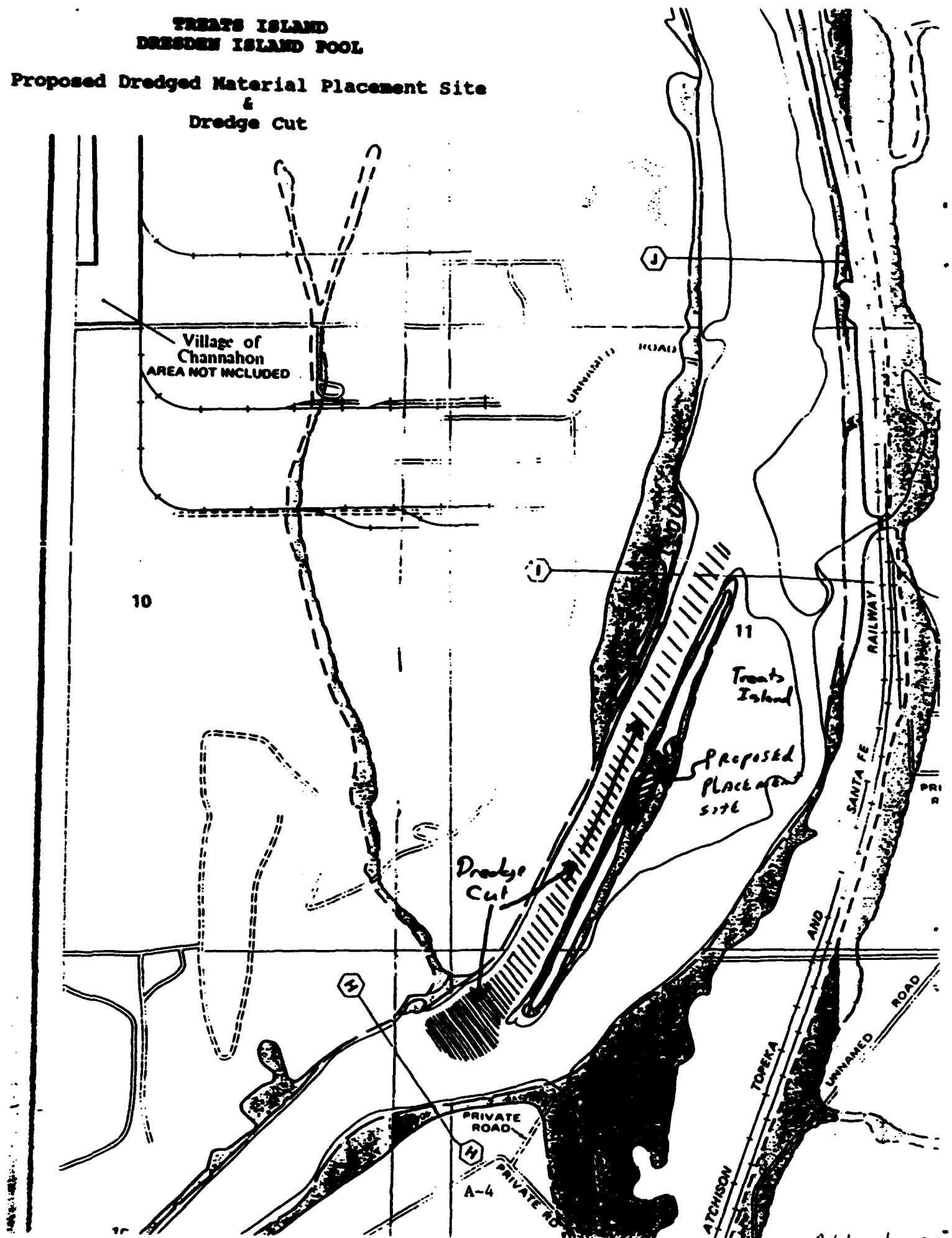
Mr. Dennis Kennedy
Technical Analysis and Permit Unit
Illinois Department of Transportation
Division of Water Resources
3215 Executive Park Drive
P.O. Box 19484
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9484

Mr. Doug Blodgett
LTRM Field Station
Illinois Natural History Survey
704 North Schrader Avenue
Havana, Illinois 62644

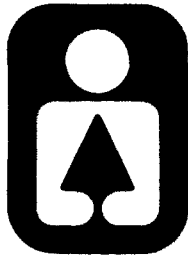
Mr. Theodore Hild
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer
Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency
Old State Capitol
Springfield, Illinois 62704

**TREATS ISLAND
DRESDEN ISLAND POOL**

**Proposed Dredged Material Placement Site
&
Dredge Cut**



Illinois



Department of Conservation

Life and land together

Brent Manning
Director

John W. Comerio
Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay
Assistant Director

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62761-1767
CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH 60601

January 20, 1993

Mr. Dudley M. Hanson, P.E.
Chief, Planning Division
Department of the Army
Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers
Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Mr. Hanson:

Reference is made to your letter of January 4, 1993 concerning the Rock Island District's proposal to place dredged material on Treats Island in the Dresden Island Pool, Illinois Waterway.

As is noted in the letter, Treats Island is owned by the Illinois Department of Conservation. Your agency has previously coordinated the proposed disposal activity with our staff, and the Department has no objections to the use of the property. It is understood that this action will be governed by the terms of Permit #9224 (COE DACW25-9-92-4007A), a copy of which is attached for your ease of reference. In addition, the project will have to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Please contact Robert Schanzle of my staff at 217/782-3715 if we may be of further assistance at this time.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Lutz, Supervisor
Impact Analysis Division

RWL:RWS:mp
Attachment

cc: DOWR (Kennedy)
IEPA (Yurdin)
INHS (Blodgett)
USFWS (Nelson)
USEPA (Fenedick)

Government File No.: DACW25-9-92-4007A
Grantor's File No.: 9224
Location: Des Plaines River Mile 279.7

PERMIT FOR DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT

The State of Illinois, Department of Conservation, 524 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1787, hereinafter referred to as the Grantor, does hereby grant to the United States of America, its officers, agents and employees; and its contractors, their agents and employees, hereinafter referred to as the Government, permission to enter upon and use the following land located in the County of Will, State of Illinois, described as follows: Treats Island, located in the waters of the Des Plaines River, in Section 11, Township 34 North, Range 9 East of the 5th Principal Meridian, for the purpose of depositing dredged material from dredging operations performed within the Des Plaines River, during the period of 5 years from the date of this Agreement, but revocable by the grantor at the end of any calendar year.

Said dredged material may be deposited on the above described lands in such manner as suits the convenience of the dredging operations without any obligation on the part of the Government to level or otherwise dress the dredged material deposits. Said dredged material shall be placed under the Commonwealth Edison power lines in compliance with their guidelines (placed a minimum of 10' away from the power poles and leaving a minimum of 20' clearance under the power lines). Immediately downstream of the power lines, between two parallel rows of old dredged material, is a valley, approximately 650' long and 70' wide at the peaks. The walls and floor of the valley are comprised of rock and rocky material. Dredged material shall be placed here also. Dredged material shall be kept upstream of a large (+ 4' dia.) cottonwood tree, located within the valley and approximately 550' downstream of the power lines. Dredged material shall also be kept below the peaks of the old dredged material banks, to retain the vegetation along the peaks.

All tools, equipment and other property taken upon or placed upon the land by the Government shall remain the property of the Government and may be removed by the Government at any time within a reasonable period after the expiration of this instrument.

The granting of this permission does not obligate the Government to perform any dredging operation for depositing of dredged material upon the above described property.

Activities of the Government upon lands of the Grantor pursuant to this permit, including but not limited to dredged material placement, site preparation, and equipment staging, will be conducted in accordance with the following suggested guidelines established by the Illinois Department of Conservation, Central Zone, District Wildlife Manager:

1. That dredging not occur until after the close of the waterfowl season (Central Zone) specifically the Duck season which generally runs on or about the month of November.
2. That the Corps of Engineers notify the contractor (if one is used) in writing of the dates of the Central Duck Hunting Zone. This information is generally available the first week of September.
3. That in as much as possible, disturbance of the area be kept minimal, as far as normal regular dredging operations are concerned.
4. That dredging operations begin as far up stream as possible during the planned course of work from year to year to allow maximum utilization of the waterfowl hunting basin directly down stream of the I-55 bridge.
5. That consideration be given to the rights of those citizens utilizing the Des Plaines Conservation Areas waterfowl hunting area under authority of the Department of Conservation.

The Grantor, owner of the above described lands, in consideration of the benefits to be received hereunder, does hereby expressly and fully release and forever discharge the Government from all liability for any and all damage done or caused to be done to the above described land, or any improvements or personal property thereon, resulting from said dredging operations.

The Grantor shall not be responsible or liable for claims by third parties for injuries to persons or damage to property when such injuries or damages are caused by or result from the Government's use of the premises under the terms of this permit and are not due to the negligence of the Grantor.

Dated this 21 day of JANUARY, 1992.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

BY:

Brent Manning

Title:

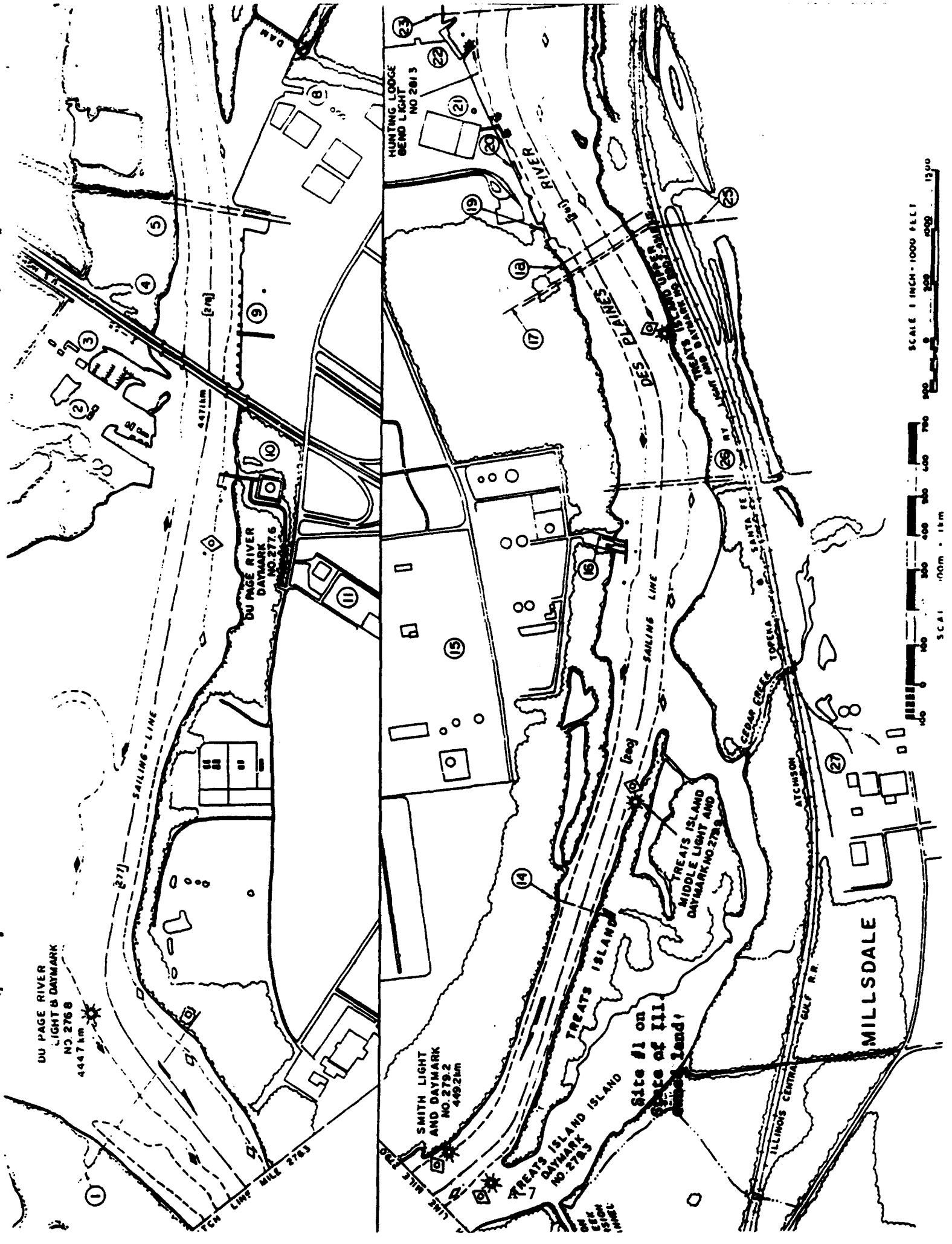
1-21-92

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BY:

W. M. Tait
W. M. Tait
Chief, Real Estate Division

Inserted 10/4/93





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P O BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

January 4, 1993

Planning Division

SEE DISTRIBUTION LIST

This letter is to notify you that the Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently proposing to place dredged material on Treats Island, Dresden Island Pool, Illinois Waterway. The Rock Island District anticipates distribution of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and public notice regarding this action later this fiscal year.

Treats Island is owned by the Illinois Department of Conservation and is located in Will County along the left descending bank of the Des Plaines River. The proposed site is located at river mile 279.6 to 279.7L and is approximately 550 feet long. It lies between two parallel rows of dredged material which was placed there during construction of the manmade channel in the 1930s. The parallel rows and the area between is composed primarily of rocky dredged material. The estimated capacity for this site is 12,000 to 13,000 cubic yards.

The Illinois On-Site Inspection Team (OSIT) visited the island in May of 1991 and made recommendations that the site be used for dredged material placement.

Please provide your comments, concerns, and recommendations regarding significant natural and cultural resources to us no later than February 10, 1993. A map showing the location of the proposed placement site and the dredge cut from which most of the dredged material will be removed is attached for your reference.

In addition to consider any other and environmentally located within the potential placement its location, along

IHPA Log No.

930107001WWI

We have determined, based on the available information, that no significant historic, architectural or archaeological resources are located within the proposed project area. Please retain this letter as evidence of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

By:

William C. Wheeler

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date:

1/25/93

IHPA REVIEW

WA

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501 WWI
5025 Jm Th



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Rock Island Field Office (ES)
4460 - 48th Avenue Court
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

309/793-5800

February 5, 1993

Colonel Albert J. Kraus
District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District
Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Colonel Kraus:

This responds to your letter of January 4, 1992, requesting our comments on the proposed placement of dredge material on Treats Island, Dresden Island Pool, Illinois Waterway, Will County, Illinois. The information we are providing will be used in the formation of an Environmental Assessment and public notice for the proposed action.

To facilitate compliance with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, Federal agencies are required to obtain from the Fish and Wildlife Service information concerning any species, listed or proposed to be listed, which may be present in the area of a proposed action. Therefore, we are furnishing you the following list of species are listed as occurring or potentially occurring in Will County, Illinois:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
Endangered	Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Wintering
Endangered	Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Caves, mines; small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forest
Endangered	Leafy prairie clover	<i>Dalea foliosa</i>	Prairie remnants on thin soil over limestone

Threatened	Eastern prairie fringed orchid	<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>	Mesic to wet prairie
Threatened	Lakeside daisy	<i>Hymenoxis herbacea</i>	Dry rocky prairie

The endangered bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is listed as wintering along the Illinois River in Will County, Illinois. During the winter, this species feeds on fish in the open water areas created by dam tailwaters, the warm water effluents of power plants and municipal and industrial discharges, or in power plant cooling ponds. The more severe the winter, the greater the ice coverage and the more concentrated the eagles become. They roost at night in groups in large trees adjacent to the river in areas that are protected from the harsh winter elements. They perch in large shoreline trees to rest or feed on fish. There is no critical habitat designated for this species in Illinois and the only restrictions that apply to the eagle are that it not be harassed, harmed or disturbed when present.

The endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is listed as potentially occurring in Will County, Illinois. It frequents the corridors of small streams with well developed riparian woods as well as mature upland forests. It forages for insects by flying beneath the tree canopy, and roosts and rears its young beneath the loose bark of large dead trees that are generally greater than sixteen inches in diameter. It winters in caves and abandoned mines. The only Critical Habitat listed for this species in Illinois is the Blackball Mine on Pecumsaugen Creek in LaSalle County.

Because of the nature of this species, we cannot provide you with specific locations from one year to the next. If the project site contains any habitat that fits the above description, it may be necessary to conduct a survey to determine the presence of the bat. If the bat is present, it must not be harmed, harassed or disturbed. If suitable habitat exists on the site, no trees may be cleared between the dates of May 1 and August 31.

Leafy prairie clover (*Dalea foliosa*) is listed as endangered for Will County, Illinois, based upon historical records. It occupies prairie remnants on thin soil over limestone bedrock. There is no critical habitat designated for this species. Federal regulations prohibit any commercial activity involving this species or the destruction, malicious damage or removal of this species from Federal land or any other lands in knowing violation of State law or regulation, including State criminal trespass law.

The eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) is listed as historically occurring in Will County, Illinois. It occupies wet grassland habitats. There is no critical habitat designated for this species. Federal regulations prohibit any commercial activity involving this species or the destruction,

malicious damage or removal of this species from Federal land or any other lands in knowing violation of State law or regulation, including State criminal trespass law.

The lakeside daisy (Hymenoxys herbacea) is listed as threatened in Will County, Illinois. It occupies dry, rocky prairies. There is no critical habitat listed for this species in Illinois. Federal regulations prohibit any commercial activity involving this species or the malicious damage or removal of this species from Federal land or any other lands in knowing violation of State law or regulation, including State criminal trespass law.

This letter provides comments under the authority of and in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.); and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

If you have any questions contact, Mr. Tim Romanski of my staff.

Sincerely,

for Wayne A. Fischer
Richard C. Nelson
Field Supervisor

cc: USEPA (Cvengros)
ILEPA (Yurdin)
ILDOC (Schanzle, Glosser)
RO (Johnson)

TR:hw

SECTION 404(b)(1) EVALUATION

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**MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE FOR
MAINTENANCE DREDGING, TREATS ISLAND
ILLINOIS WATERWAY
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**APPENDIX B
CLEAN WATER ACT
SECTION 404(b)(1) EVALUATION**

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<u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
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2	Proposed Placement Site and Dredge Cut

**MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE FOR
MAINTENANCE DREDGING, TREATS ISLAND
ILLINOIS WATERWAY
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**APPENDIX B
CLEAN WATER ACT
SECTION 404(b)(1) EVALUATION**

SECTION 1 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LOCATION

Treats Island is owned by the Illinois Department of Conservation and is located in Will County along the left descending bank of the Des Plaines River between River Miles (RM) 279.2 and 280.1 (plate 1).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Maintenance dredging is required to remove accreted sediments from the channel in order to provide a safe and unobstructed navigation channel. Historically, dredging has been performed mechanically, with the dredged material placed at various locations along the bankline. The last dredging event for this area occurred in 1982, and heavy shoaling in the channel since that time has created a hazard for navigation.

AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

The formal authorization for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to perform operation and maintenance activities on the Illinois Waterway was given in the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1927, as modified by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1930, and as further modified by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1935.

Maintenance dredging responsibility on the Illinois Waterway within the Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is given under the Illinois Waterway 9-Foot Channel project. The purpose of the proposed action is to remove accumulated sediment which may threaten commercial navigation or pose danger to life or property. This evaluation will address possible impacts associated with that action.

The Illinois On-Site Inspection Team (OSIT) provides input and guidance to the Corps in the selection of dredged material placement sites. The members of the OSIT represent the Illinois Department of Conservation; the Illinois Department of Transportation; the Illinois Natural History Survey; the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; the Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Illinois OSIT visited Treats Island in May 1991 and made the recommendation that this site be used for dredged material placement.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF DREDGED AND FILL MATERIAL

The material to be dredged consists of stone and rocky material, gravelly coarse to fine sand, with coal, cinders and wood, with less than 1.8% passing through a No. 230 sieve. Material this coarse requires mechanical dredging.

Shoaling of the navigation channel in this area has required dredging in the past and will likely continue in the future. The site on Treats Island is expected to contain a total of 14,000 to 15,000 cubic yards. However, the off-loading portion of the site, which this document addresses, would accommodate only a very small portion of that total quantity.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED OFFLOADING SITE

The proposed offloading site on Treats Island is located at RM 279.7L. It is approximately 2,800 square feet (0.06 acre) in area and lies at the upstream end of two parallel rows of old dredged material which were placed during construction of the navigation channel in the 1930's. The proposed offloading site is located out of the floodway, within the floodway fringe. It has a rock/sand substrate, very likely laid down by past dredge placement activities.

The utility company maintains the site as an open area so they have access to their utility poles and power lines which traverse the island. Plant species include grasses, asters, smartweeds, willow, and hackberry. Birds, reptiles, and small mammals common to a shrubby, riverine habitat also may be found in the area.

Plate 2 shows the location of the proposed placement site and the dredge cut from which most of the dredged material would be removed. The off-loading site described in this document is located at the extreme upstream end of the total dredged material placement site.

DESCRIPTION OF PLACEMENT METHOD

The mechanically dredged material would be off-loaded by crane from barges onto the old placement site and under the Commonwealth Edison Power lines. The first material off-loaded would be used to build a platform or staging area onto which additional material would be placed and then pushed by bulldozer into the area between the old dredged material placement.

SECTION 2 - FACTUAL DETERMINATIONS

PHYSICAL SUBSTRATE DETERMINATIONS

The area of concern is approximately .06 acre in size and has a rocky/sandy layer and enough topsoil to support plant growth. It is out of the floodway but would be inundated with a 100-year flood. Its elevation slopes from 506 feet to 518 feet, with the 2-year flood elevation at 506 feet and the 100-year flood elevation at 511.6 feet. The river's flat pool elevation is 504.5 to 505 feet.

WATER CIRCULATION AND FLUCTUATION DETERMINATIONS

Since this site has a rocky/sandy layer with topsoil, no impacts to water circulation or fluctuation are expected to occur.

SUSPENDED PARTICULATE AND TURBIDITY DETERMINATIONS

Since this site has a rocky/sandy layer with topsoil, no increases in suspended particulates or turbidity are expected to occur.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS

Other dredged material placement sites were considered. (Reference Section 3 of this document, paragraph 2.) This site was the most practicable solution available at this time.

CONTAMINANT DETERMINATIONS

The composition of the dredged material would be mainly sand, gravel, and boulders with very little fine material included. It is therefore determined that the dredged material would be chemically inert and within regulatory limits.

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM DETERMINATIONS

Since this site is on an island and out of the floodway, no aquatic ecosystem would be impacted.

PLACEMENT SITE DETERMINATIONS

No adverse impacts would be realized to waterborne recreation, municipal or private water supplies, recognized natural or cultural resources, or commercial fisheries.

Certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act has been granted.

DETERMINATION OF CUMULATIVE OR SECONDARY EFFECTS ON THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

The proposed placement of dredged material on an island site and out of the floodway is not expected to have any cumulative or secondary effects on the aquatic ecosystem.

**SECTION 3 - FINDINGS OF COMPLIANCE OR
NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE RESTRICTIONS ON DISCHARGE**

1. No significant adaptations of the 404(b)(1) guidelines were made relative to this evaluation.
2. Alternatives which were considered are as follows:
 - a. **Beach/Bankline Placement:** This alternative removes sediments from the navigation channel and has been utilized in the past. However, the space available for placement is at a premium, and this alternative also leaves dredged material vulnerable to entry back into the river.
 - b. **Floodplain Placement:** This alternative proposes placing material on numerous sites (other than the Treats Island placement site) on lowlands adjacent to the dredge cut. These sites are currently bottomland hardwoods and/or open marsh. The placement of dredged material in this wetland habitat may not comply with Executive Order 11990.
 - c. **No Federal Action:** The No Action alternative would preclude Federal involvement in the project. Consequently, no dredging would occur. If this area is not dredged, it is likely that shoaling would continue to occur and result in closure of the channel to commercial navigation.
 - d. **Placement on Treats Island:** This is the preferred alternative for the project. The placement site is confined on two sides by material previously placed in the 1930's during construction of the navigation channel and would yield an estimated holding capacity of about 14,000 to 15,000 cubic yards of dredged material.
3. Certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act has been granted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.
4. The project is not expected to introduce any toxic materials into the Illinois Waterway.
5. Determination was made, by coordination with State and Federal agencies, that no impacts would occur to State or federally listed threatened or endangered species.
6. The project is located along a freshwater, inland river system and, thus, no marine sanctuaries are involved.
7. No municipal or private water supplies will be affected, and no impacts to the river ecosystem are expected.
8. The deposited material would be chemically stable and noncontaminating. Therefore, no threat exists in terms of contamination to vegetation or ground water.

9. Based on the guidelines, the project is considered to be in compliance with Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act, as amended.

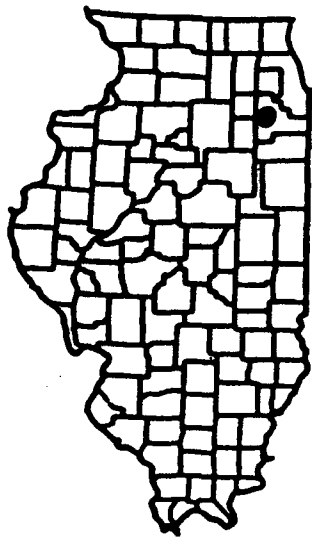
10. The proposed project will not significantly impact water quality or the integrity of the aquatic ecosystem.

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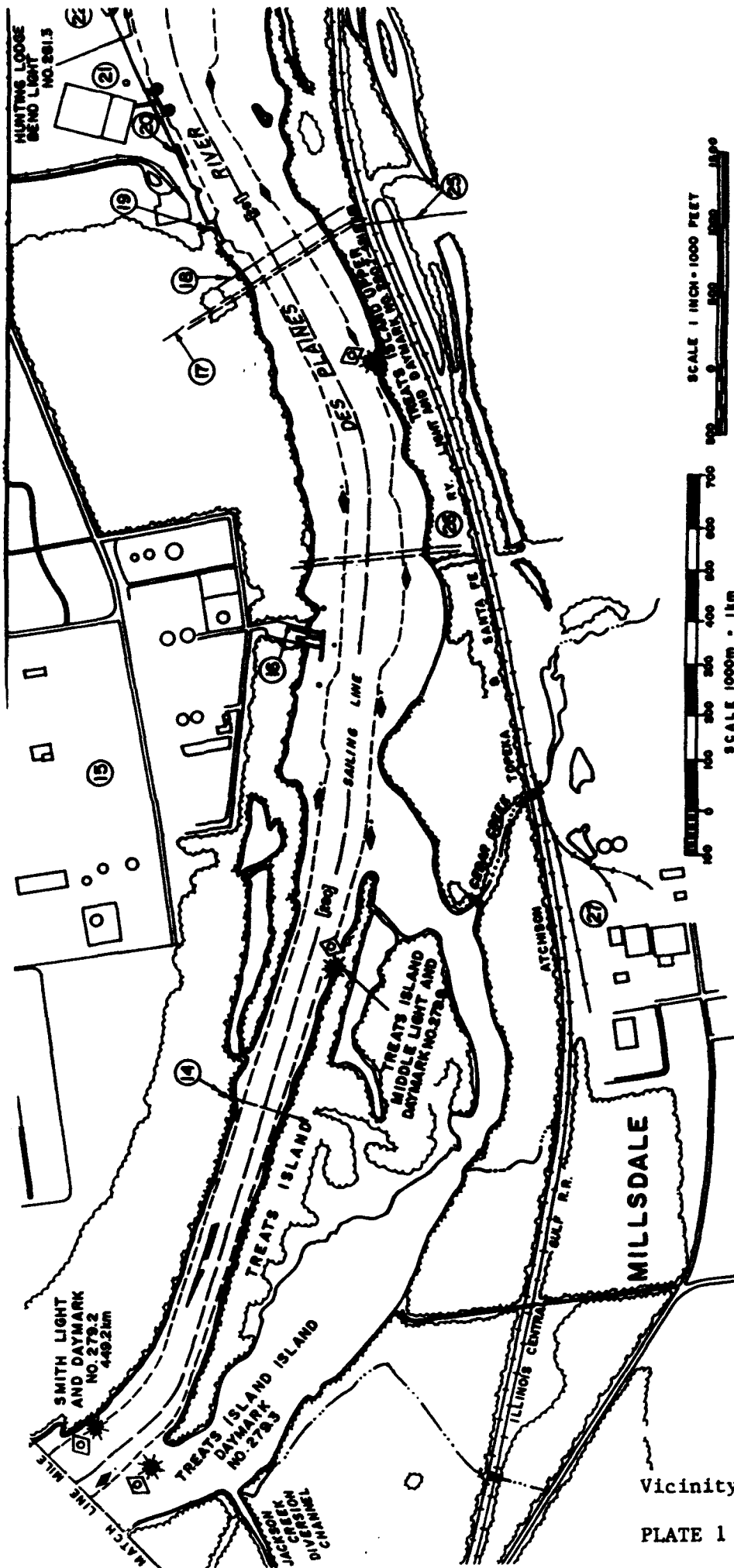
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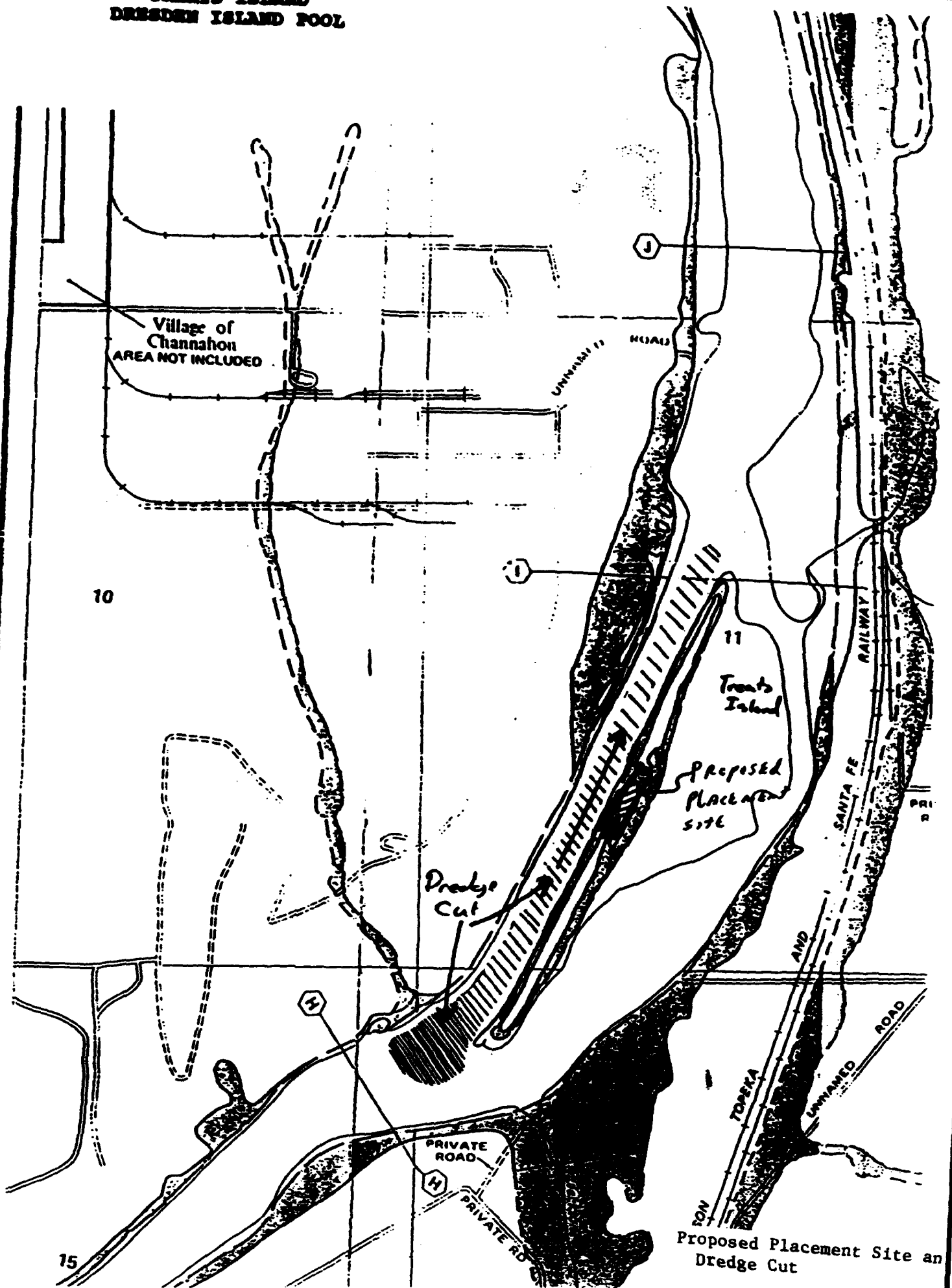


VICINITY MAP



Vicinity Map

TREATS ISLAND
DRESDEN ISLAND POOL



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